The details of steps taken by the Government to meet the shortage of officers and soldiers are as under:-

(i) Steps are being taken to make short service commission more attractive.

(ii) Officers are being offered courses at various institutes to enhance their professional training to ensure that they are adequately equipped for a second career, post retirement.

(iii) Undertaking the married accommodation project for overcoming the shortage of secure family accommodation.

(iv) Image projection campaigns undertaken and activities such as Motivational lectures etc. are carried out to encourage youngsters to join the defence forces.

Possible danger of attack on Indian merchant ship

†950. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that warships have been dispatched to sea near Africa;

(b) if so, the purpose of the same;

(c) whether the news about the possible attack on any Indian merchant ship is true; and

(d) if so, the details of countries' whose people pose this threat?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (d) Warship of the Indian Navy has been deployed in the Gulf of Aden for anti-piracy patrol. The ship patrols the normal route followed by Indian flagged merchant vessels during their passage through the Gulf of Aden. The presence of Indian Navy in the area is expected to help protect the country's sea-borne trade and instil confidence in the sea-faring community, as well as to function as a deterrent for pirates.

There was an attempt of piracy on Indian Flag cargo vessel, MV Jag Arnav, on the 11th November, 2008, which was successfully repulsed by Indian Navy Ship (INS) Tabar.

Pirate gangs are operating along the coastline of Somalia in Gulf of Aden and are reported to belong to Somalia.

One rank one pension for Defence personnel

†951. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ex-servicemen are demanding one rank one pension;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether defence personnel have rejected the recommendations of Sixth Pay Commission; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has not found the demand acceptable.

(c) and (d) The defence personnel have not rejected the recommendations of the 6th Central Pay Commission.

Complaints against Army Officers

952. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints against army officers for "misconduct", "misbehaviour" and sexual assault on women during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details of complaints received from women officers; and

(c) the steps Government has taken or proposes to be taken to protect women in armed forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (c) One complaint from a lady army officer about physical and mental harassment by her superior officers was received during the last one year. The allegations leveled by the lady officer have been investigated by a Court of Inquiry and found to be baseless. Whenever such complaints are received the case is promptly investigated and based on the outcome of the investigation stringent action is taken if any body is found at fault.

Need for a National war memorial

953. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no national war memorial to remember the soldiers, sailors and airmen who laid down their lives to guard an independent India even after sixty years of Independence;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government is considering for erection of war memorials; and

(c) if so, where and when it will be executed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU) : (a) Yes.

(b) A suitable land has not been obtained.

(c) Does not arise till land is available.

Incidents of misconduct by Army personnel

954. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: